



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

April 10, 2002

Ms. Geraldine Taylor
National Sea Grant Office R/SG
Proposals Processing, NOAA
13 15 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 209 10

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission strongly endorses the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network's proposal for a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute. As the only bi-national fishery agency with research and management authority on the Great Lakes, the commission believes that in-depth training for new leaders is long-overdue and that PI Dr. Rochelle Sturtevant and Michigan Sea Grant are perfectly suited to undertake this leadership effort.

There is little doubt that the Great Lakes management community needs to devote more attention to education, outreach, and extension. This paucity of outreach comes at a time when the stakeholders in the region desire more input into management decisions and a greater understanding of the issues relating to the fishery. Indeed, the information needs of fishers and the ability of agencies to meet those needs often are incommensurate. The proposal for a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute is timely. Such an institute will serve as a mechanism for agencies to reach the stakeholders and will help fill the education gap.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission believes Sea Grant, led by PI Sturtevant, is well-equipped to undertake this project. Sea Grant has a strong track record of facilitating education, extension, outreach and communications in the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Sea Grant should this proposal be accepted. Moreover, Dr. Sturtevant, a respected member of Sea Grant's staff will effectively bridge science and outreach and is well-positioned to facilitate the involvement of many fishery organizations in the Great Lakes region, including the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the proposal for a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute. The commission sincerely hopes this proposal is received favorably by Sea Grant and stands ready to serve on the Institute's steering committee or in any other suitable capacity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Goddard
Executive Secretary



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory
2205 Commonwealth Blvd.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-2945

April 10.2002 R/E/GL

National Sea Grant Office R/SG

Attn: Ms. Geraldine Taylor
Proposals Processing, NOAA
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Reviewer:

I strongly support the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network (GLSGN) proposal for a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute. Several of my ~~senior-level~~ scientists were involved in the Great Lakes Sea Grant sponsored workshop where this concept was presented. They unanimously concur with the identified need for in-depth training to the next generation of leaders and enthusiastically support the concept of a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute as an appropriate mechanism to meet this goal.

I am excited that Dr. Rochelle Sturtevant is serving as lead PI on the proposal. Dr. **Sturtevant** is the resident Sea Grant Extension Agent at GLERL and serves as a liaison between GLERL and the GLSGN. Her leadership and involvement will work to the mutual benefit of both the GLSGN and GLERL, resulting in greater collaboration of GLERL scientists in this important outreach effort. I am confident that **GLERL's** involvement in the development of the Institute and its curriculum will lead to even greater opportunities for collaboration between these two segments of NOAA.

GLERL scientists have expressed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm towards providing scientific expertise for the development of a science-based curriculum, suitable for the Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute. I believe that GLERL expertise in the areas of Great Lakes food webs, ecosystem modeling, aquatic nuisance species impacts and contaminants will be especially important for these developments.

GLERL is willing to provide copies of our publications (fact sheets, scientific publications, etc.) for inclusion in the curricula and experts to serve as presenters, instructors, or discussion leaders in the various sessions of the Institute. I believe that the contact of the Great Lakes Fishery Institute participants with key staff from our agency during the course of the Institute and beyond will greatly enhance our outreach capabilities as well as both the real and perceived relevance of GLERL science. GLERL is willing to make GLERL facilities available for the Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute including conference facilities (available at both our main facility in Ann Arbor and our Field Station in Muskegon) and research vessels for field trips on Lakes Michigan and Huron.



In recent years GLERL has developed a strong **fish** program as part of its ecosystem approach to research in the Great Lakes. For example, in the last four years, GLERL scientists have published more than 20 peer-reviewed scientific papers related to **fisheries** and **fish** ecology. This figure does not include the sum of research relevant to **fisheries** issues from a broader ecosystem perspective, such as food webs, physical-biological interactions and aquatic nuisance species impacts, which has long been, and continues to **be**, one of the major strengths of GLERL research. So, GLERL is well positioned to offer this endorsement and support.

In short, through in-kind support and consultation, the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory is pleased to support the development of the Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute and I look forward to the many benefits this project will bring to the region and to this agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Step Brandt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Step" and last name "Brandt" clearly distinguishable.

Stephen Brandt
Director. GLERL



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 5, 2002

National Sea Grant Office R/SG
Attn: Ms. Geraldine Taylor
Proposals Processing, NOAA
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Taylor:

On *February* 12, 2002 I attended the meeting at your laboratory on behalf of Craig Czarnecki, Ecological Services Field Supervisor, along with Tracy Hill and Kofi FynnAikins of our Alpena and Lower Great Lakes Fisheries Resources Offices, respectively. The meeting produced a proposal for fisheries leadership training in the Great Lakes region.

We support the need for fisheries leadership training in the Great Lakes region. In addition we extend specific support for the Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute concept that grew out of that meeting by Sea Grant and partners. As time and funding allows, we offer to participate on the steering committee, provide expert advice on development of particular curriculum elements of federal interest, and make staff available to give presentations or meet with participants as needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important proposal.

Sincerely.

Bob Kavetsky
Great Lakes Biologist

cc: Tracy Hill, Alpena Fisheries Resources Office
Kofi FynnAikins, Lower Great Lakes Fisheries Resources Office
USFWS, Gerry Jackson, ARD, Fisheries, Twin Cities, MN
USFWS, Bob Adair, Ecological Services, Twin Cities, MN

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United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Great Lakes Science Center
145 I Green Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
PH: (734) 994-3331 FAX: (734) 994-8780

March 28, 2002

National Sea Grant Office R/SG
Attn: Ms. Geraldine Taylor
Proposals Processing, NOAA
13 15 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Taylor:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposals from the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network entitled, "Fisheries Extension Enhancement: Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute," and "Great Lakes Regional Fisheries Extension Enhancement Work Plan: Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Curriculum Development".

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as the science arm of the Department of Interior, is federally mandated to conduct fishery research and fish stock assessments on the Great Lakes. The USGS Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) since 1927 has provided critical information for the sound management of Great Lakes fish populations and other important natural resources in the Great Lakes Basin. The GLSC has a staff of nearly 100 individuals that are stationed at the Center's main laboratory in AM Arbor, MI and eight field stations strategically located in four of the Great Lakes states. The GLSC also operates five large research vessels, one on each lake, with capabilities for offshore fisheries monitoring and research. Working in partnership with resource management agencies, GLSC provides unbiased scientific information on Great Lakes biological and habitat resources, and determines the effectiveness of resource management and ecological restoration efforts. All eight Great Lakes states, tribal fishery management authorities, Canadian federal and provincial authorities, U.S. federal organizations, and academic institutions are the Center's main cooperators.

In contrast to the GLSC's excellent history of scientific contributions, we frankly do not devote sufficient resources to outreach and public education in the Great Lakes region. As Science Coordinator, I have collateral duties for outreach and education and am currently assisted by a half-time student from the University of Michigan. I perceive a significant value to the above-referenced proposals in improving the public's awareness and understanding of complex fishery and fishery-related issues in the Great Lakes. In discussion with my colleagues in other agencies, the GLSC is not alone in devoting minimal human and financial resources to outreach and education. It is efficient use of taxpayers' dollars to better utilize and enhance the ability of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network to develop and communicate fisheries information on the Great Lakes. The Sea Grant Programs in the Great Lakes already have the mandate and

expertise for communications, extension, and education, so it makes sense for a fisheries research and information source, like the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, to collaborate with the proposed Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute to train citizen fishery leaders throughout the Great Lakes Basin. I view the relationship between the USGS Great Lakes Science Center and this proposed project as complementary and mutually reinforcing.

The USGS GLSC will support the proposed Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute by providing scientific information pertinent to developing curriculum and other materials. GLSC staff is willing to serve on the Institute's steering committee, and to serve as experts in presentations at workshops and in the review of curriculum modules and other products.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John E. Gannon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John E. Gannon, Ph.D.
Science Coordinator and Acting Center Director



Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council

P.O. BOX 297, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Fore better sport fishery .

Tel: (630) 941-1351
Fax: (630) 941-1196
glsfc@netwave.net
www.great-lakes.org

April

2002

Dr. Rochelle Sturtevant
Sea Grant Extension Agent
Great Lakes Environmental Research
2205 Commonwealth Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Dr. Sturtevant

Recognizing the sport fishing community has no organized training program for new leadership, I am impressed by the concept that has been proposed by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. The proposal to create a training program that will ultimately develop new leadership of younger anglers is very timely and important.

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council heartily endorses the proposal of a Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute as outlined by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, and I would be very willing to participate *on* the steering committee and give input as appropriate in the development and selection process.

Reluctantly recognizing I am part of this graying over-the-hill gang of aging sport fishing leaders, I personally recognize the importance and timeliness of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network's efforts and proposal. Through this proposal I can only foresee long term benefits and dividends to organized sport fishing groups and clubs, community projects, and residual and wide-ranging economic benefits.

I look forward to working with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network's steering committee on this important project, am very excited about it and heartily endorse it. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Thomas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Thomas, President
Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council

A not-for-profit organization

APR 5 2002

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources****Bureau of Fisheries, 5th Floor**

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4753

Phone: (518) 402-8889 • FAX: (518) 402-8925**Website: www.dec.state.ny.us****April 1, 2002**

Mr. David White
Great Lakes Program Coordinator
New York State Sea Grant Program
101 Richiiali
SUNY College at Oswego
Oswego, New York 13126-3599

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for forwarding the Sea Grant white paper outlining the concept of the proposed Great Lakes Fisheries **Leadership** Institute. I found the concept **quite** exciting and potentially of great benefit to the Great Lakes fisheries management community.

Fisheries management increasingly includes substantive involvement of stakeholders. In my experience, interactions between professional staff and stakeholders have frequently been frustrating because both groups tend to speak **from different** frames of reference and fail **to** achieve meaningful communication. Although professional fisheries biologists need to develop better understanding of stakeholders' perspectives, stakeholders rarely have a complete understanding of the scientific, institutional, legal and policy aspects of fisheries management. A program **that** would enable emerging leaders to gain mastery of these elements would be a **significant** benefit to fisheries management **in** the Great Lakes and would greatly facilitate the maturation of **true** partnerships between fisheries managers and stakeholders.

I believe that the proposed Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute would be a great asset and strongly support **funding** this initiative. Further, a coordinated **program** of this scale **formulated** as a joint venture by the entire Great Lakes **Sea** Grant network is highly imaginative and innovative, and hopefully a foreshadowing of future initiatives to enhance **Great** Lakes fisheries.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Lange
Great Lakes Section Supervisor



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Lake Superior Area Fisheries
535 1 North Shore Drive
Duluth, MN 55804
(218) 723-4785

RECEIVED
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April 4, 2002

Mr. Jeff Gunderson, Program Leader
Minnesota Sea Grant
2305 East 5th Street
University of Minnesota
Duluth, MN 55812

Dear Jeff:

I am writing in support of the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute put forth by Sea Grant as a project for Fisheries Extension Enhancement. The more information citizens have on fish management in the Great Lakes, the more meaningful discussions they will have, and the better contribution they will make to effective long-term resource decisions.

As you are aware, I work closely with a variety of groups and many individuals interested in Great Lakes fisheries management. One of the obstacles that commonly occurs during communication on the various management issues discussed is a lack of formal background on aquatic ecology and fish management practices. I spend much of my time just getting folks up to speed so they can understand the information they are interested in discussing. Your program is an attempt to bridge that gap and get an educated segment of the public involved in helping to make these decisions.

I would be happy to assist with curriculum development and review where appropriate. I would also be willing to recommend or provide you with contacts from the various organizations I work with. I feel one area that would help standardize the curriculum would be some type of peer review before it is finalized and presented to the leadership participants. Use of AFS textbooks to develop the curriculum content might be a good starting point.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and good luck with your project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald R. Schreiner', written in a cursive style.

Donald R. Schreiner

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

J.K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2002

Dr. Ronald Baird, Director
National Sea Grant College Program
NOAA/Sea Grant, R/SG
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC-3, Eleventh Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Baird

Fisheries Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is pleased to endorse the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network's proposed Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute.

MDNR has worked closely with the Michigan sea Grant College Program over many years. we value the program's work with groups that are also our constituents, such as ~~recreational~~ and Native American fishery operations and recreational anglers, especially those in the charterboat industry. WC anticipate many benefits of the proposed Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute to educate citizen volunteers in the basics of Great Lakes fishery issues, and look forward to working closely with Michigan Sea Grant and the other Sea Grant programs across the Great Lakes basin as it is developed.

In Michigan, citizen volunteers play an important role in MDNR activities. For example, we seek input in fishery management issues through special citizen advisory committees appointed for each Great Lake. It will be beneficial for us to be able to send newly appointed members to the Institute. It is estimated that a typical citizen volunteer is active for approximately five years and may take up to a year and a half in obtaining a basic understanding of issues. The Institute will enable our citizen participants to gain a rapid understanding of basic issues, while interacting with the Great Lakes fishery community and their peers. This is a much-needed development in Great Lakes fishery management.

MDNR support6 establishment of a Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute and I hope that the National Sea Grant College Program will also see the value of the project and support it. If you have any questions, I welcome your call.

Sincerely,

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
chief
FISHERIES DIVISION
517-373-337s

cc: Dr. William Taylor